

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 COME-00 GSA-02 INT-08

TRSE-00 OPIC-12 AID-20 L-03 H-03 PRS-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-07 DRC-01 /115 W

----- 091579

R 091415ZNNOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

RO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4412

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 1164

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EMIN, CTO

SUBJECT: GOCAR OPENS UP DIAMOND TRADE, REMOVES US ADVISER.

1. GOCAR PUBLISHED THREE DECREES NOVEMBER 5 WHICH OPENED

UP DIAMOND-BUYING TRADE IN CAR, APPROVED ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW DIAMOND-BUYING COMPANY HERE AND REMOVED ALBERT JOLIS, PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN COMPANY DIAMOND DISTRIBUTORS INC. (DDI), FROM HIS POSITION AS PRESIDENT BOKASSA'S OFFICIAL DIAMOND ADVISER. FOURTH DECREE NOVEMBER 9 ANNOUNCED CREATION OF ANOTHER NEW COMPANY: "SOCIETE LEBANO CENTGAFRICAINE."

2. TRADE HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN RESTRICTED TO FOUR COMPANY CONSORTIUM ESTABLISHED IN AGREEMENT WITH GOCAR AND IN WHICH DDI AND ISRAELI STATE-OWNED COMPANY SICPAD OCCUPIED PREEMINENT POSITION AND ACCOUNTED FOR BULK OF DIAMOND PURCHASES IN AR. FIRST TWO AND LATEST DECREES IN EFFECT ABROGATE THESE ARRANGEMENTS AND CHALLENGE THIS POSITION. FIRST NEW COMPANY IS REPORTEDLY DIRECTED BY HAIK ARSLANIAN, LEBANESE CITIZEN OPERATING OUT OF ANTWERP WHO HAS PREVIOUSLY DONE BUSINESS IN CAR AND WHO APPARENTLY ENJOYS RATHER DUBIOUS REPUTATION IN TRADE CIRCLES. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION YET ON SECOND COMPANY.

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EM COMMENT: JOLIS' DISMISSAL COMES AS PARTICULAR SURPRISE  
SINCE HE HAD FRIENDLY MEETING HERE WITH PRESIDENT IN LATE  
OCTOBER AND RECEIVED NO INDICATION OF ANY DISSATISFACTION.  
REASONS BEHIND BOKASSA'S DECISIONS ARE NOT YET CLEAR BUT  
COULD BE RELATED TO CONTACTS AND PRESSURES HE ENCOUNTERED  
DURING RECENT TRAVELS ABROAD, AND HIS PRESSING CURRENT NEED  
FOR CASH AND INCREASED GOCAR REVENUES. WILL REPORT AND  
COMMENT FURTHER AS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE. DALE

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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 NOV 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**To:** STATE INFO PARIS  
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